

(a) whether the Government had constituted a committee for formulating a long term policy on tea export;

(b) whether the committee had submitted its report;

(c) if so, the recommendations thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to implement those recommendations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e). The Committee constituted to formulate the long-term strategy and plan for tea including increase in export of tea had made 133 recommendations regarding all round developments of tea industry. The Working Group formed by the Central Government to go into the recommendations of the Committee finally recommended 84 recommendations for implementation such as regular arch for reduction in the production cost, active involvement of State Govt. on various aspects related to tea, strengthening of Tea Board, detailed market research on a regionwise basis etc. These recommendations have since been accepted by Govt. for implementation and Tea Board has been advised to take follow-up action thereon.

Export of Leather to Germany

5068. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great demand of leather from Germany;

(b) if so, the total demand thereof during the year 1991-92 and the quantity of leather

actually exported; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the leather export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) While there is no estimate of the total demand of leather in Germany, that country was our biggest market in 1990-91 for leather and leather products. During 1991-92 upto December, 1991, our exports of leather and leather products to Germany were Rs. 478.09 crores (Quantitative figures are not available).

(c) The Government policy is to progressively displace the exports of raw materials by value-added leather products and towards this end, exports of raw hides and skins and semi-finished leather have already been banned. Export of finished leather, though allowed at present, is subject to an export duty of 10%.

Operation of Private Buses without STA Permits in Delhi

5069. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 762 on 28 February, 1992 and state:

(a) the details of the instructions given to Delhi Administration to deal with the illegally operating buses in Delhi on DTC routes without permits; and

(b) the total number of such buses and the number out of them booked during each month of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT